

Appl. No. 10/506,757
Amendment and Reply dated April 13, 2006
In Response to Final Office Action of February 15, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

A presentation of all of the pending claims with their current status indicated follows.

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A centrifugal separator including a centrifugal rotor arranged for rotation around a substantially vertical rotational axis (R), the centrifugal rotor having a rotor body, delimiting a separation chamber, and a pumping member, that is arranged to rotate with the rotor body and to extend during the operation of the centrifugal rotor downwardly from the rotor body and into a liquid body, situated under the rotor body, for pumping of liquid from the liquid body into the rotor body,

the pumping member having on an outside thereof, a pumping surface facing away from the rotational axis (R), extending mainly rotational-symmetrically around the rotational axis (R) and ~~being arranged to have contact with~~ contacting a free liquid surface on said liquid body in an area extending around the pumping member,

the pumping surface on the outside of the pumping member, at least along a part of the axial extension of the pumping member in said area, having a generatrix forming an angle with the rotational axis (R) such that the pumping member along said part of its axial extension defines increasing diameter from below and upwards, so that upon rotation of the rotor liquid will flow upwards from the free liquid surface on the outside of the pumping member, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein

the rotor delimits a receiving space situated so that it receives liquid that upon rotation of the rotor has been brought to flow upwards from the free liquid surface on the outside of the pumping member, and wherein

the pumping member includes a continuous surface extending from the pumping surface into a part of the receiving space of the rotor.

11. (Previously presented) A centrifugal separator according to claim 10, wherein said generatrix forms an angle greater than 30° with the rotational axis (R).

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12. (Previously presented) A centrifugal separator according to claim 10, wherein said generatrix forms an angle of about 35° with the rotational axis (R).

13. (Previously presented) A centrifugal separator according to claim 10, wherein said generatrix forms an angle smaller than 45° with the rotational axis (R).

14. (Previously presented) A centrifugal separator according to claim 10, wherein the rotor body, during operation of the centrifugal rotor, extends downwards to a level such that the rotor body surrounds an upper part of the pumping surface of the pumping member somewhat above the free liquid surface.

15. (Currently amended) A centrifugal separator according to claim 10, wherein the ~~pumping member has a continuous surface of the pumping member extending from the pumping surface into a part of the receiving space of the rotor, which is arranged to contain~~ contains liquid during operation of the rotor.

16. (Previously presented) A centrifugal separator according to claim 10, wherein means are arranged to maintain a free liquid surface in the separation chamber of the centrifugal rotor at a first radial distance from the rotational axis (R), said receiving space communicating with the separation chamber at a second radial distance from the rotational axis (R) greater than said first radial distance.

17. (Previously presented) A centrifugal separator according to claim 10, wherein a driving device for rotation of the centrifugal rotor supports the pumping member, which in turn supports the rotor body.

18. (Previously presented) A centrifugal separator according to claim 10, wherein the separation chamber has two outlets at different radial distances from the rotational axis (R) of the rotor for the respective of two separated liquids with different densities.

Please add the following new claims.

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-- 19. (New) A centrifugal separator according to claim 10, wherein the pumping surface is comprised of a conical pumping surface closed towards the liquid surface.

20. (New) A centrifugal separator according to claim 10, further including means for maintaining the pumping surface in continuous contact with the free liquid surface of the liquid body.